THE SWORD INTERVAL

BY BEN FLEUTER

Christ. I'm so stupid. I wasn't taking my life back at all. This whole time... this ***whole time*** Atlas was lying to me! Alex and Reginald and... and I fell for it!

M-my mom's necklace wasn't even real!
How do I know what else is fake? How do I...
Hey. Hey you're not stupid.

You were a kid. You'd been through hell and these creeps used that against you. That's not your fault.

But why? Porter was willing to kill if it meant keeping the truth from me.
Jesus christ, David. Porter was going to kill all of us because I *caught* a *bullet!*
This is... this is bigger than I ever wanted. If we follow up on Rue's vision we're-- we'd be going directly against Atlas!

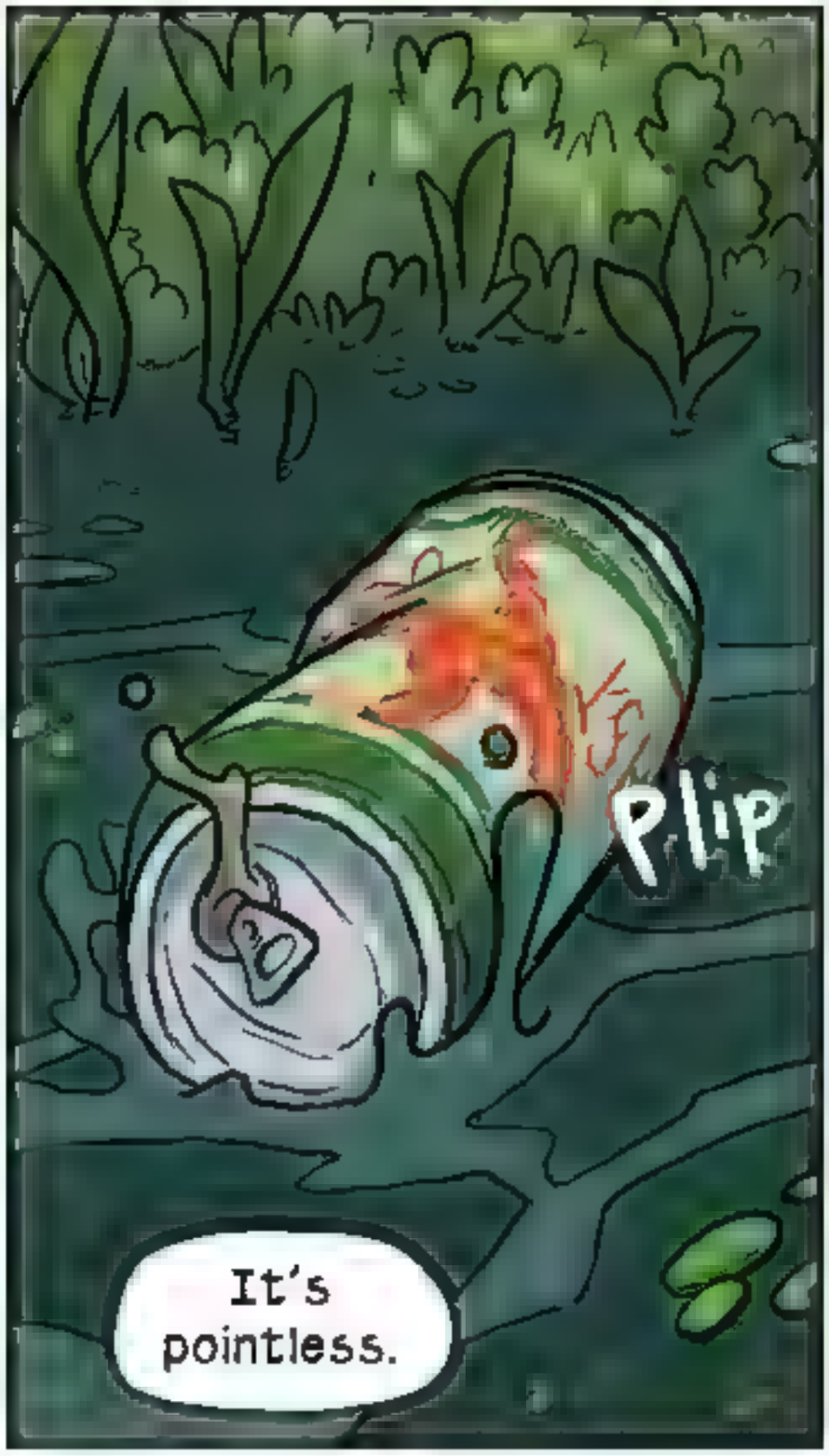
There's no way I can ask you to do that.

I'd like to follow through on this.
For once, I'd like to see something through.

...You're talking about your Son. About Cody.
God, Fall, don't worry yourself about that on top of everything else.

No dude, it's been bugging you all day.
Did something happen to him?

It's nothing.
Everything you've been through today? Next to that?
It's nothing.


Plip
It's pointless.

It's not pointless, it's hurting you!
And after today I'd *love* to worry about someone else's problems. I mean, like, if that's okay.
hff.

...It's still his birthday. Least in his timezone.

Eighteen years old. An adult. Thought I'd write a check. He could get himself through college or put a downpayment on a house or... anything in the world he wanted to use it for.

But I can't see him wanting to hear from me.
Just cash after all this time? What a slap in the face.

You and his mom had a falling out?
Mmh... Wasn't really a relationship to fall out of in the first place.

When I started hunting... I was young. Angry.
Wasn't even interested in women but was too scared of that realization to admit it, especially to myself.
sigh It was a different time.

BREW
I took down the monster haunting this woman. She was grateful, I was an idiot.

Nine months later I hear I have a kid.
BREW
I decided that wasn't my responsibility.

Used the hunt as an excuse 'til I just... burnt out. Years go on and...

BEF
54
You ever put something off so long that you just become more and more ashamed to confront it?